

STANDARDS ALERT

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*Standards Development Opportunity: **Bamboo and Rattan***

China has proposed developing international standards for bamboo and rattan products. While Asia is the largest producer of and biggest user of bamboo and rattan, the work has relevance for U.S. sectors such as furniture and building products. Commerce's Office of Standards and Investment Policy (OSIP) Standards Team and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) are flagging an opportunity for U.S. companies to comment on the work planned by China to be launched in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), particularly identifying any concerns now and later becoming involved in the standards development work when it begins.

ANSI welcomes comments on the Standards Administration of China's proposal by **March 13**. Contact Steve Cornish at SCornish@ansi.org or Renee Hancher in OSIP at Renee.Hancher@trade.gov with any questions. ITA's industry analysts are also important resources for companies interested in learning more about how this standards work may affect their products or services. Interested companies may reach out to: Brian Ledgerwood, Office of Materials Industries, (Brian.Ledgerwood@trade.gov) for flooring and wood products, or Jim Rice, Office of Consumer Goods, (Jim.Rice@trade.gov) about furniture products.

Key excerpts from the Scope Statement of China's proposal:

Formulation and revision of international standards in the fields of bamboo and rattan will be launched covering three levels. At Level A, the new Technical Committee will focus on basic standards covering terminology and classification of bamboo, rattan and related products. Level B will cover standards related to methods, including test methods of physical and mechanical properties of bamboo strip, bamboo charcoal, and rattan. Level C will cover standards on products, including major processed products of bamboo and rattan. Level A and B form the basis for formulating bamboo and rattan product standards, while level C is for product applications.

You can review the full proposal at

http://www.ansi.org/news_publications/news_story.aspx?menuid=7&articleid=878f7cbd-7d51-45a0-909b-5cd5e8c41d2a

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About STANDARDS ALERT

Standards Alert is a new service from OSIP in cooperation with ANSI, the private sector coordinator of the U.S. Standards system, to ensure ITA clients know about opportunities to participate in standards development.

To facilitate company participation, OSIP and ANSI are happy to provide information on how to get involved. For background, the following link provides an overview of the U.S. standardization system and how it relates to international standards development http://www.ansi.org/standards_activities/overview/overview.aspx.

Have an idea for a future edition of **STANDARDS ALERT**? Contact Mike Boyles at 202-482-1935 (Michael.Boyles@trade.gov).



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